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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/550,583	04/17/2000	YAARIT SILVERSTONE	AND1P584	1125

7590 09/01/2004

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EXAMINER

AKERS, GEOFFREY R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3625

DATE MAILED: 09/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/550,583	Applicant(s) SILVERSTONE ET AL.	
	Examiner Geoffrey Akers	Art Unit 3625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/19/04
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 22-28 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 22-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is issued in reply to applicant's response filed 5/19/04.
2. No claims were amended. No claims were added. None were deleted.
3. Claims 1-14, 22-28 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1-14, 22-28 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Sheflott(US Pat. No: 5,802,493) in view of Tibbets(US Pat. No: 6,158,044) in view of Flores(US Pat. No: 6,073,109) in view of Elance.com(1998) and further in view of Ettl(US Pat. No: 6,078,900).The rejections as cited in the Non-Final Office Action(Paper # 25) are maintained.
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Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments are not persuasive. Sheflott teaches a method for providing contract services in a framework comprising the steps of matching a user to a service provider using a database having service provider information(Abstract)(Fig 1/2q1/326/30)(Fig 3/88)(col 6 lines 55-62). Sheflott also teaches providing supply chain workflow services and a database for services provided by the service providers(col 6 lines 32-52)(col 6 lines 62-col 7 line 3). Sheflott further teaches sending the user information concerning process design services using the service provider data structure(col 7 lines 15-67) as well as allowing the user access and query for technical

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services concerning services provided by the providers using the database(col 23 lines 22-30).Sheflott teaches a method for generating a proposal response(Abstract).

Tibbetts teaches defining a set of specifications for all proposal components(col 42 line 49) and proposal submission(col 44 lines 7-10). Modification of Sheflott by Tibbetts permits proposal submission to an agency for subsequent response in supply chain workflow services and services for process design where the motivation is to establish a proposal response apparatus for workflow services and process designs.

Furthermore, Flores teaches identifying service providers based upon the RFP data(col 46 lines 36-col 47 line 12)(col 105 line 1-col 107 line 14). Modification of Sheflott in view of Tibbetts by Flores permits proposal submission to an agency for subsequent response in services based on specific RFP data. The motivation to combine here is to establish a proposal response apparatus for workflow services specifically suited to a designated RFP.

Elance teaches web-based applications utilizing hyperlinks on the Internet that provides access to a network of service providers and sourcing tools(pages 1-9).Elance further teaches utilizing hyperlinks on the Internet(pages 1-9) for web-based services including procurement services and a vendor network(page 1) which incorporates contract service providers in the system. Modification of Sheflott in view of Tibbetts in view of Flores by Elance permits proposal submission to an agency for subsequent response in services and design processes suited to specified RFP's requirements which includes procurement services and a network of vendors to meet RFP requirements. The motivation to combine is to establish a proposal response apparatus for workflow and

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design services specifically suited to a particular RFP and which permits a procurement services and network of vendors to meet design(manufacturing) requirements.

Finally, Ettl teaches a means of determining stock levels in production networks with inventory control(Abstract) as well as allocating available budgets among products in a network(Fig 2/202). Modification of Sheflott in view of Tibbetts in view of Flores in view of Elance by Ettl permits proposal submission to an agency for subsequent response in services and design processes suited to specified RFP's requirements which includes procurement services and a network of vendors to meet RFP requirements where allocated budgets are designated. The motivation to combine is to establish a proposal response apparatus for workflow and design services specifically suited to a particular RFP and which permits a procurement services and network of vendors to meet design(manufacturing) requirements within an operating budget.

Conclusion

6. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.

Questions concerning this communication should be addressed to the examiner of record, Dr. Geoffrey Akers, P.E., who can be reached between 6:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday at 703-306-5844. If examiner cannot be reached, the superior, Mr. Vincent Millin, SPE, may be telephoned at (703)-308-1065.

GRA

August 31, 2004

DR. GEOFFREY R. AKERS, P.E.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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